

The Clear Gospel Message

By Larry E Miller

The following material will help you transition to introducing the gospel and clearly presenting the biblical “grace” message. Remember the gospel is the good news message about how to be delivered from eternal Hell into eternal Heaven.

Here are some suggestions for good questions to ask when leading a person toward a gospel interaction. Do so prayerfully, and you will probably discern where they are regarding readiness to respond positively.

A. **“Are you developed enough in your spiritual life or journey to know that you will go to heaven when you die?”** (This question isn’t accusing. It assumes something positive about the person’s spiritual interest.)

B. If the person says **No**, you could respond with something like, **“Would you like me to show you in the Bible how you can know for sure you will go to heaven when you die?”** If they say OK, then proceed to read and explain the gospel and invite the person to respond.

C. If the answer is **Yes** to A, do not assume the person adequately understands. Ask him or her something like this, **“When you face God, suppose He would ask you, _____ [name], ‘Why should I let you into My heaven?’ What would your answer be?”** The person’s answer to this question will tell you a great deal about what he or she understands. A lot of people may give an uninformed answer at this point. If this occurs, you can respond with something like, **“I can tell you have thought about this. However, you may not be totally clear on this point. May I show you in the Bible?”**

I cannot emphasize to you enough the importance of having a way to present the gospel clearly.

Below is one of the most well-known and, in my opinion, clearest ways many evangelicals go about presenting the gospel.

Gospel Presentation

Keep in mind grace, faith, and works, particularly pertaining to Roman Catholics. Also, if you are communicating with someone who is outside the family of God, remember he or she has two most serious and desperate needs.

- He or she needs forgiveness for the penalty of sins.
- He or she is spiritually dead and needs new life.

Suggestion for a Sound Gospel Presentation

Dr. Larry Moyer developed the method*, called “Bad News Good News.”

(Here’s a brief outline with slight modifications.)

Question: Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure you’re forgiven of your sins and have eternal life? May I?

Statement: The Bible contains both bad news and good news.

The **bad** news is something about **you**. The **good** news is something about **God**.

Let’s first look at the bad news.

As you go through this process encourage them to use their own Bible if they have one and are willing. But please be sensitive as you attempt to do so. Do not do or say anything to embarrass them.

Now back to the bad news.

Bad News One - We are all sinners.

Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” “Sinned” means we have missed the mark. When we lie, hate, lust, or gossip (or _____), we miss the standard God has set for us.

Suppose you and I were each to throw a rock and try to hit the north pole.

You might throw farther than I can, but neither of us would hit it. When the Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short,” it means we have all come short of God’s standard of perfection, and it is certain we will continue to fall short. In thoughts, words, and deeds, none of us can be perfect.

But the bad news gets worse.

Bad News Two - The penalty for sin is death.

Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death.”

Suppose you worked for me, and I paid you fifty dollars. Those fifty dollars were your wages. They are what you earned. This biblical text concisely identifies the penalty for sin, namely death.

God condemns sinners to death. All people in their natural condition are spiritually dead—that is, separated from God because of their sin (Ephesians 2:1).

The Bible teaches that those who die in the spiritually dead condition will be sent into the second death, which is eternal separation from God (Revelation 20:11–15).

But ...

There was no way you could come to God on your own. However, because God foresaw that men would sin (even before creation) He planned and provided a way of salvation (1 Peter 1:18–21).

Good News One - God has provided for your eternal salvation.

A. Christ died for you. Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

B. Christ lives to give eternal life. Christ proclaimed that He is the source of eternal life (John 11:25; 14:6).

Suppose you are in a hospital, dying of cancer. I come to you and say, “Let’s take the cancer cells from your body and put them into my body.” If that were possible, what would happen to me? What would happen to you? **I would die, and you would live. I would die in your place.**

The Bible says Christ took the penalty we deserved for sin, placed it on Himself, and died in our place. Three days later, Christ came back to life to prove that sin and death had been conquered and that His claims to be God were true. Also, the resurrected Christ is our life—that is, our source of eternal life—and He is perfectly capable of giving us such life.

Just as the bad news gets worse, the good news gets better.

Good News Two - You can be saved through faith in Christ.

Ephesians 2:8–9 says, “For by grace [undeserved favor] you have been saved through faith, and that **not of yourselves**, it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.”

(“Saved” in this context includes forgiveness and eternal life.)

*Very importantly, faith means “**trust**.”*

Q. What must you trust Christ for?

*You must depend on **Him alone** to forgive you and give you eternal life.*

Just as you trust a chair to hold up you through no effort of your own, so you must trust Jesus Christ to get you to heaven through no effort of your own.

But you may say, “I’m religious,” “I go to church,” “I’m a good person,” “I help the poor,” or “I don’t do anything really bad.”

These are all good, but good living—going to church, helping the poor, or doing any other good thing you might do—cannot get you into heaven. You must trust in **Jesus Christ alone**, and God will give you eternal life as a gift.

*Note: For a **Roman Catholic**, the issue of “faith” or “trust alone” without meritorious works as a condition for salvation is a huge point. Another helpful verse to share is Titus 3:5, “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”*

Is there anything keeping you from trusting Christ right now? If so, what might it be?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

(Think carefully. There is nothing more important than your need to trust Christ.)

Would you like to tell God you are trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior? If you would, why not pray right now and tell God you are trusting His Son?

(Remember! It isn't a prayer that saves you. It is trusting Jesus Christ that saves you. It isn't trusting in Jesus Christ *plus some work* that saves you. **It is trusting Jesus Christ ALONE that saves you.**)

Dear God, I know I'm a sinner. I know my sin deserves to be punished. I believe Christ died for me and rose from the grave. I trust Jesus Christ **alone** as my Savior. Thank You for forgiveness and the everlasting life I now have. In Jesus's name, amen.

What Just Happened?

John 5:24 explains, "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

- Did you "hear" what God's word has to say?
- Did you "believe" what God said and trust Christ as your Savior?
- Does "has everlasting life" mean later or right now?
- Does it say, "Shall not come into judgment" or "*Might* not come into Judgment"?
- Does it say, "Has passed from death" or "Shall pass from death"?

Eternal Life Is Based on Fact, *Not Feeling!*

Memorize John 5:24 today - "**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.**"

What Do You Do Now?

Tell someone about your choice to place your saving trust in Jesus Christ.

Having trusted Christ as your only way to heaven, here's how to grow in your relationship with Him.

- **Tell God what's on your mind through prayer (Philippians 4:6–7).**
- **Read the Bible daily to learn more about Him and learn from Him (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Start in the book of Philippians.**

- **Worship with God's people in a local church (Hebrews 10:24–25).**
- **Tell others about Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:19).**

* Moyer, Seeds: From Sowing to Reaping.